

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A hot dip coating apparatus for coating a steel strip wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the apparatus including comprising:

a bath of molten coating alloy containing aluminum,

at least one component immersed in the bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the at least one component having a surface that comes into contact with the bath when in use,

wherein the component is made from ~~aluminum corrosion resistant~~ stainless steel containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen distributed substantially uniformly throughout its microstructure.

2. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the ~~aluminum corrosion resistant~~ stainless steel contains greater than 0.10 wt % of nitrogen.

3. (Previously Presented) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the at least one component is a sink roll under which the steel strip is passed.

4. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus for coating a steel strip wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the apparatus including comprising:

a bath of molten coating alloy containing aluminum,

at least one component immersed in the bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the at least one component having a surface that comes into contact with the bath when in use,

wherein the at least one component includes at least one layer made from ~~aluminum corrosion resistant~~ stainless steel containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen distributed uniformly through its microstructure.

5. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the ~~aluminum corrosion resistant~~ stainless steel contains greater than 0.10 wt % of nitrogen.

6. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the at least one component includes a further layer, and wherein the ~~aluminum corrosion resistant~~ stainless steel layer containing the nitrogen is disposed between the surface and the further layer.

7. (Previously Presented) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the further layer is formed from stainless steel.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the at least one component is a sink roll under which the metal strip is passed.

12. (Currently Amended) The hot dip coating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the at least one component includes a further layer, and wherein the ~~aluminum corrosion resistant~~ stainless steel layer containing the nitrogen is disposed between the surface and the further layer.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A method of coating a steel strip wherein the strip is immersed in a bath of coating alloy containing aluminum, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a bath of molten coating alloy containing aluminum;

providing a component made from stainless steel containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen distributed substantially uniformly through its microstructure;

immersing said component within the molten coating alloy; and

passing the steel strip about said component immersed in the bath.

19. (New) The method of claim 18 where the step of providing a component made from stainless steel containing an appreciable amount of nitrogen distributed substantially uniformly through its microstructure comprises providing a component made from stainless steel having greater than 0.10 wt % of nitrogen.